

Application Serial No. 09/917,171
Response Date: May 9, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

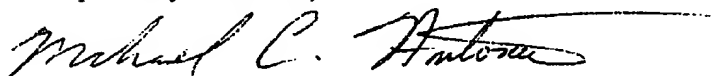
Claims 1-61 are pending. Claims 3, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 35, 50-54, 55-56, and 57-58 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amended claims 3, 5, 12, 14, 35, and 50 to be in independent form including all limitations of the base and intervening claims as per the objection to make the claims allowable, cancelled claims 1, 9, 34, and 46-47, and amended the dependences of claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10-11, 13, 15-17, 20, 36-40, 48-49, 55, and 57 to depend from the new independent claims. New claims 62-65 correspond to original claims 3, 5, 12, and 14, which were rewritten as new claims dependent from new independent claims 5, 3, 14, and 12, respectively; and, thus, introduce no new limitations to the claims.

In view of the above response, Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that such action be taken. If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to this Amendment or to the subject application in general, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are due with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, including those under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, necessitated by this amendment and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500477.

Respectfully submitted,



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